



PRESS RELEASE

House National Security Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

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PRESS ADVISORY

NATIONAL SECURITY R&D SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONDUCT FIELD HEARING ON FEDERAL RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC TERRORISM IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

The Subcommittee on Military Research and Development of the Committee on National Security of the U.S. House of Representatives will conduct a field hearing on Saturday, March 21 at 1 p.m. in the Sagamore Ballroom at the Indiana Convention Center (2nd floor) during the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC). The subcommittees will receive testimony on the fiscal year 1999 National Defense authorization request for Federal response to domestic terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction and training for first responders. The hearing is open to the public.

The purpose of the hearing is to provide an understanding of Department of Defense (DOD) plans and programs and the actions taken to date by DOD to provide the "domestic emergency preparedness" training and assistance to Federal, state, and local agencies that is mandated in PL 104-201; to address the enhanced mission being proposed for the Reserve Components in responding to a weapons of mass destruction event; and to obtain the views of local emergency first responders on the effectiveness of Federal domestic emergency preparedness training and assistance program and plans for providing training and assistance to state and local agencies.

Media Information:

- All members of the press interested in covering the hearing should contact Maureen Cragin or Ryan Vaart at the number listed above, or John Gammon in Indianapolis at (317) 327-6086 or (317) 761-6503.
- On the day of the hearing, broadcast press requiring set up time should arrive at the Sagamore Ballroom no later than 12:00.
- Press seats will be reserved until 20 minutes after the hearing commences, seats not taken at that time will be released for general public seating.

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Witness List:

Panel I

- Charles L. Cragin, III, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs)
- Maj. Gen. George E. Friel, Commander, USA Chemical-Biological Defense Command
- Brig. Gen. Roger E. Schulz, Deputy Director, Operational Readiness and Mobilization Directorate, Headquarters, Department of the Army
- Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent, National Fire Academy, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Mr. Steven G. Sharro, Director, Terrorism Coordination Unit, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Witness to be determined, Department of Justice

Panel II

- Chief Richard Marinucci, President, International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Chief John M. Eversole, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, Chicago Fire Department
- Chief Mario H. Trevino, Las Vegas Fire Department
- Commissioner Harold B. Hairston, Philadelphia Fire Department
- Chief Ray Downey, Special Operations Command, Fire Department, City of New York
- Chief Larry Curl, Wayne Township Fire Department, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Mr. Theodore L. Jarboe, Deputy Chief, Department of Fire and Rescue Services, Rockville, Maryland

Background Information on the National Security Committee:

The subcommittee is in the process of considering the readiness aspects of the President Clinton's fiscal year 1999 defense budget request. The jurisdiction of the House National Security Committee covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the significant national security portions of the annual operating budget of the Department of Energy. DOD's annual budget in excess of \$260 billion involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on National Security are conducted primarily within the context of the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill.

The committee divides its responsibilities between five standing subcommittees (Military Procurement, Military Research and Development, Military Readiness, Military Installations and Facilities, and Military Personnel) and two special oversight panels (Moral, Welfare, and Recreation and Merchant Marine).

The Military Research and Development subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Representative Curt Weldon (R-PA) and is comprised of 27 members of Congress. The subcommittee is responsible for the annual authorization of funding for military research and development and related legislative oversight. In March 1996, the subcommittee held the first in a series of hearings that have focused on the U.S. chemical-biological defense program and the response to potential urban terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction. The results of that first hearing strongly influenced The Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 1996 (Title XIV, Public Law 104-201). This hearing is the fifth in the series and focuses on the federal training and technical assistance program in support of federal, state, and local emergency management personnel who would respond to such a terrorist incident.

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